Container and offshore shipping

1194. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government on container and offshore shipping;

(b) whether Government propose to allow subsidy in shipbuilding for building container ships in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The development of India shipping including off shore shipping is an ongoing process. In November, 2002, the Government had issued revised guidelines for chartering of vessels supporting the owners of Indian vessels for operating in the coastal and offshore sector in line with worldwide practice. So far as container shipping is concerned the Government has taken steps to enhance capacity and improve productivity with focus on measures aimed at modernization, rendering cost effective services, enhancement of service quality, commercialization through corporatization and increase private participation in major ports of the country with these measures ports are expected to have an additional container handling capacity of 24.50 million tonnes per annum during the Tenth plan period.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Shipbuilding subsidy has been extended to all the shipyards. However, incase of domestic orders, ocean going merchant vessels of the length of 80 meters or above are eligible for shipbuilding subsidy. In case of export order, the subsidy is available irrespective of type and size of vessel. Container ships which meet the above criteria are eligible for shipbuilding subsidy.

Status of National Waterway Number-One

1195. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Waterway Number-one between Haldia and Allahabad;